

Don. 1744
N 108 *Coffet House* (74)
L E T T E R

FROM AN

OLD CITIZEN

OF

L O N D O N,

TO THE

WINE-MERCHANTS and COOPERS thereof.

Aut Amor, aut Timor.



L O N D O N:

Printed for W. BICKERTON, in the Temple-Exchange, Fleet-street.
M.DCC.XLIV. (Price Three Pence.)

THE T. E. R.

FROM AN

OLD O. I. E. II

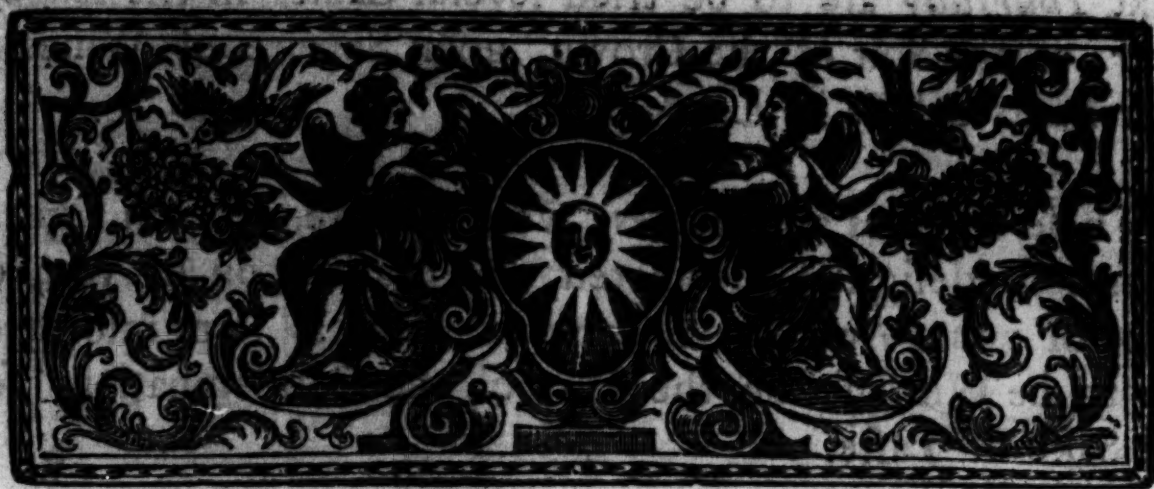


TO THE

W. M. ROBERTS AND CO. NEW YORK

NEW YORK

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London, Nov. 23, 1744.

*To my worthy Bretheren, Citizens,
and Friends, the Wine-merchants
and Coopers of the independent
City of London.*

Dear BROTHERS.



Am very sorry I have Occasion to write to you upon a Subject which I have much at heart for your own Sakes: But whenever I see my Bretheren acting inconsistent with themselves, I will always endeavour to set them right in Print, which I intend and hope will be a Caution for their future Actions.

To make out my Charge of Inconsistency, I only desire, you would be pleased to call to mind the late Pains, Trouble, and Charge, to defeat the Excise Scheme, for your Sakes: And for you to do an Act now, that, I am afraid, must infallibly effect that same Excise Scheme, is a direct Inconsistency; which no one with Decency can deny.

The Act which I mean, is this ; you well know, That next *Thursday* are to be tried several Causes in the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of the Crown, upon Seizures of Wines in Merchants Cellars in *London*.

These Seizures and Causes, were and are, if I am rightly informed, designed, promoted, and pushed on by you, or some of you: And you or some of you, as I am informed, are to be Witnesses on the Part of the Condemnation, for the Sake of Taste.

The Wines, as I am informed, were seized as Wines of the Growth of the *Spanish* Dominions, imported (as supposed) contrary to the Act 13 *Geo. II.* for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*; and the Attempt is to condemn them under that Act.

I shall not pretend to intermeddle with the Merits of the Causes, or to enter into the Circumstances of them; but shall only beg Leave to observe, that if the Cellars of Merchants in *London* are not Securities against the Customhouse Officers breaking open their Locks by Violence, and seizing and locking up the Merchants Wines therein, as prohibited Wines, (for I say nothing of non-payment of Duties) after manufactured and mixt with different Sorts of Wines of different Countries, and made agreeable to the Tastes of the *English*, and healthful to their Bodies (for, I take it, that Merchants prepare more wholesome and more agreeable Cordials than Apothecaries) and then they are to be tried by Taste, and the Proof is to lie on the Merchant, that they are not prohibited Wines; there will, in my poor Opinion, soon be an End of Merchandizing in Wines; for after the Wines have stood Trial, and been cleared, if they are after that sold to Twenty different Persons, they are still liable to be seized, locked up, and tried over again; because there can be no Proof of the Identity of the Wines, unless the Merchants Eye be always upon his Wines; there being no Permit, or any Certificates, to shew the Identity, as in the *Excise*. And this must be so *ad infinitum*. What then must be the Consequence, I will leave it to your superior Judgments to determine.



If the Wines are ~~are~~ condemned, by reason of the Merchants Want of Proof (the expected Proof being almost impossible, on Account of the Mixture) that they are not prohibited Wines, it will still be worse; for then the Merchants will lose their Wines, and not be able ever to get back the Duties paid to the Crown for them.

That you, my worthy Bretheren, will endeavour to condemn the seized Wines, I make no Doubt; otherwise, as I am apt to think, you will bring on yourselves the Laugh, and *Gibber's Motto to Pope,*

*Remember poor Sauny's Fate,
Bang'd by the Blockhead he wou'd have beat.*

So that you plainly see, that in either Case, you are acting quite inconsistent with your own dear Selves.

Pardon me, if I mention one Thing more, which I know not how to omit, and that is this, *viz.* By your wise Menage in this Affair (but, I dare say, without any Design, or Forethought) you have chalked out a Method for some future powerful Man, to harrafs yourselves, whenever he has Occasion for you, and to bring you to his own Terms: Every of us knows there have been, in former Times, many Sorts of political Ways used by powerful Men, to bring us Citizens over to their Side. I have heard my Father say, that Aldermen and Common-council Men have been got over by Places, Pensions, and Bank Paper; And that other Citizens have been oppressed by Crown Prosecutions to the same Intent; And you, Sirs, know very well the old Saying, that, what has been, may be again.

If I am mistaken in the Matter, I desire for my own Satisfaction, that I may be set Right. If not, I ask Leave to advise you to endeavour a Cessation of the Prosecutions, &c. and not bring the Affair in Question, but let it be buried in Oblivion; which I think is the best Method to get rid of the Mistake. I beg Pardon if I offend you; it is not my Design; I have a real and true Affection for our dear City of
London,

London, and the Merchants thereof, and will always exert myself in Support of both: And with great Esteem, am

Your affectionate Brother

Citizen and Friend,

OLD CIVES.

P. S. If my Advice is not received by you, as from a true Friend and a Brother, I am afraid the Word *Sturdy* will too soon be taken from you, my Brethren, and *Sturdy Beggars*, whom I am sorry to hear, make such great Complaints already.



FINIS.



If I am mistaken in the Matter, I desire for my own Satisfaction, that I may be set right. I leave to advise you to endeavour a Collection of the Propositions, and not bring the Affair in Question, but let it be buried in Oblivion; which I think is the best Method to get rid of the Mistake. I beg Pardon if I offend you; it is not my Design; I have a real and true Affection for our dear City of London.